

Clean Set of Claims

1. Device for milking animals, comprising at least one milking stall with means (1, 2, 3) for extracting milk, means (3, 4) for de-aerating the milk which has been extracted and means (6) for conveying de-aerated milk to a milk tank (11) for storage for a prolonged period, characterized in that the storage volume (12) of the milk tank (11) is a closed chamber with a variable volume which corresponds to the volume of the milk stored in the milk tank (11).

FOIA b 7 - DATED 09-23-2001

Page 7

Applicants: Pieter Adriaan Oosterling, *et al.*

June 13, 2001

2. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the device comprises cooling means (9, 10) for cooling the milk to approximately the storage temperature while the milk is being conveyed to the milk tank.

0906122-092401
T04260-22199860

Page 8

Applicants: Pieter Adriaan Oosterling, *et al.*

June 13, 2001

3. Device according to claim 2, characterized in that the milk tank is positioned in a cooled environment and is provided with cool walls.

096612-092401
T01260-22T83850

Page 9

Applicants: Pieter Adriaan Oosterling, *et al.*

June 13, 2001

4. Device according to claim 1 characterized in that at least part of a wall (31) of the milk tank (11) is made from a flexible material.

FOUO - 2278850

5. Device according to claim 4, characterized in that inner sides of walls (31) of the milk tank (11) are smooth and free of corners.

09060122.092401
T04260.22189860

6. Device according to claim 5, characterized in that the milk tank (11) is rotationally symmetrical.

0986122.092401
101260" 22189860

7. Device according to claim 4 characterized in that the milk tank (11) is positioned in a receptacle (30) for supporting the flexible walls (31).

096342-09401
FORWARDED

8. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the milk tank has a movable wall (21) and a fixed wall (15), and sealing means (18) for sealing the opening between the movable wall (21) and the fixed wall (15).

10966122-092401

9. Device according to claim 8, characterized in that the sealing means (18) are attached to the movable wall (21) and are shaped to form a rinsing chamber (B) which is open towards the fixed wall (15) and means (16) for circulating rinsing water through the rinsing chamber (B).

09060122-092401
101250-22189860

10. Device according to claim 8 characterized in that at least part of the movable wall (21) and the fixed wall (27) have double-walls and means (19, 20) for circulating cooling liquid through space in the double walls.

09360122-052401
T04250-22T09360

11. Device according to claim 8, characterized in that at least part of the walls (15, 21, 27) is made of glass.

0906122-092401

12. Device according to claim 1 characterized in that the milk tank (11) is transportable.

FOI260-22739860

13. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the milk tank has at least one wall (27) provided with an opening for introducing spray means into the closed chamber (12).

09060122.092401

14. Device according to claim 1, characterized in that the milk tank (11) is provided with signaling means for signaling the storage volume (12) has reached its maximum.

09060122-092401
104250-22189860

090601Z JUL 78

16. Device according to claim 1 comprising a milking line (104) between the milking cups (101) and a storage tank (117, 118, 119, 120), a discharge line (103) between the milking cups (101) and a discharge vessel (116) for the purpose of discharging cleaning liquid or first contaminated milk, and a control system (108) and further characterized in that the device comprises at least two milk tanks (117, 118, 119, 120) which can be connected to the milking line (104) and switching means (112, 113) connected to the control system (108), for connecting the milking line (104) to one of the milk tanks.

1014260 22189860

17. Device according to claim 16, characterized in that the device comprises identification means (107) for identifying animals which are to be milked and memory means (108) which determine the expected concentration of a specific substance in and/or property of the milk from an identified animal.

09068122-092401
T04260-22189860

[illegible]

Page 24

Applicants: Pieter Adriaan Oosterling, *et al.*

June 13, 2001

19. Device according to claim 16, characterized in that sensor means (110) for milk are incorporated in the milking line (104), for measuring the concentration of a specific substance and/or a specific property in the milk.

104250-22189860

20. Device according to one of claims 16 characterized in that there are plurality of milking stalls (P, Q, R), which each comprise switching means (112, 113) for coupling the milking line (104) to one of the milk tanks (117, 118, 119, 120).

²²
~~21~~. Method for milking animals using a device for milking animals wherein at least one milking stall has means (1, 2, 3) for extracting milk, means (3, 4) for de-aerating the milk which has been extracted and means (6) for conveying de-aerated milk to a milk tank (11) for storage for a prolonged period, and wherein the milk is transported within a closed chamber inside the milk tank to a remote site where the milk is discharged from the milk tank, the improvement comprising the step, characterized in that, after the milk tank (11) has been emptied the closed chamber (12) is connected to subatmospheric pressure in order to reduce the storage volume of the closed chamber.

0906122 092401
104260 2218960